

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Irkutsk Oblast)

REPORT

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SUBJECT Lumber Camps and Rail Construction between Tayshet and the Lena River

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1. In fall of 1948, the Soviet Government ordered all foreigners (sic) among the forced laborers to be separated and sent north to a camp called Tayshet-lag, where they were used for railway construction (Angar-stroy: construction in the Angara region). The prisoners worked at railroad construction, Tayshet-Bratsk-Zayarsk-Lena River, and wood-cutting along the rail line. They operated out of mobile or temporary camps (kalenny), of which there were 42 between Bratsk and the Lena River, each housing from 600 to 3,000 forced laborers each. For every three to four km of rail line, a camp was built. In 1953, about 30 percent of the foreigners in these camps were released. Many had already died of hunger, cold, and disease. The headquarters for all of these camps, referred to as angarlag (lake camps) or spetsialnyye lagery MGB (special camps of the MGB), was in Tayshet.
2. Some of the lumber was used for railroad ties, but much of it was sent to the Turkmen Canal, Kuytyshev, and the Volga-Don Canal. Lumber mills which turned out railroad ties were located at Vykhrevka (sic), Dek (sic), and Tayshet.
3. From six to 15 brigades of workers operated out of each kalenna, depending on the amount of mechanical equipment. Each mechanized brigade had a norm of 360 cu m of wood, and the non-mechanized brigades had a norm of 200 cu m of wood. Each kalenna produced about 1,600 cu m of wood per day.

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